UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/773
18 August 1998
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 18 AUGUST 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

We refer to the disclosures in The New York Times of 5 August 1998, in The Guardian in its issues since 6 August 1998, and in The Mail on Sunday and other Arab and foreign newspapers since the beginning of this month, concerning statements made by David Shayler, a former officer of the United Kingdom intelligence service MI5, to the effect that MI6, the United Kingdom foreign intelligence service, hatched an unsuccessful plot in 1996 to have the Leader of the Revolution, Colonel Muammar Qaddafi, assassinated by a Libyan terrorist organization, the members of which are based in London.

We wish to inform you, the members of the Security Council and the international community as a whole of the following facts:

The General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation had drawn the attention of the United Kingdom Government, as early as the beginning of 1997, to the danger of supporting and harbouring terrorist elements and enabling them openly to announce their seditious intentions and to issue communiqués concerning their subversive plans and activities against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

1. On 9 January 1997, the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation sent a note verbale to the Italian embassy, which was in charge of United Kingdom interests in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, in which reference was made to the communiqué issued in the capital of the United Kingdom on 2 December 1996 by a terrorist group calling itself the Islamic Combat Group, which appeared on 2 January 1997 in the newspaper Al-Sharq al-Awsat, published in London. The communiqué gave details of the planned assassination of the Leader of the Revolution, specifying the place and the date of the attempt and the name of one of those who were to take part in it. The General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation requested the United Kingdom authorities to take steps as a matter of urgency to hand over the individuals concerned and to put an end to such conduct in the future.

2. The General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation sent a letter dated 23 January 1997 to the members of Parliament belonging to the Labour and Conservative Parties denouncing the harbouring by

the United Kingdom of such terrorist elements, and stating that the policy of the United Kingdom Government, which violated the principles of international law, was a departure from international practices and treaties, undermined stability and jeopardized security in the territory of another State. The letter requested that measures be taken to ensure that the activities of such elements were stopped, and that the perpetrators were prosecuted and punished.

3. On the basis of that letter, some members of the United Kingdom Parliament sent letters to members of their Government, including the Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, and the Minister of State at the Foreign Office, Jeremy Hanley; they confirmed that they had received the two notes verbales referred to above and promised to take appropriate measures.

4. In view of the fact that the authorities had taken no steps to stop such subversive activities, the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation sent a third note verbale dated 3 December 1997 to the Office for United Kingdom Interests explaining that the United Kingdom was still harbouring terrorist elements, allowing them freedom of movement and freedom openly to declare their seditious schemes and to issue communiqués concerning their subversive plans and activities, and affording them sponsorship and protection. The Committee requested the United Kingdom authorities to take steps to hand over four terrorists on suspicion of having committed acts of terrorism in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and outside it, and it provided the British authorities with abundant information supported by individual photographs of the persons concerned.

5. Almost a whole year later, the United Kingdom authorities asked for additional information concerning the people involved in the subversive activities referred to. The United Kingdom authorities were provided with the information requested in a reply contained in a note verbale sent to the British Interests Office in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya dated 6 May 1997 concerning the terrorist elements and the activities against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya that they were planning to carry out from the United Kingdom.

6. On 12 January 1998, in view of the fact that the Embassy of Italy was looking after British interests, the Italian Ambassador to the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya was reminded of the subject matter of the earlier note verbale and was notified that the Libyan authorities were still awaiting a reply; he was also invited to warn the Government of the United Kingdom not to give shelter to such terrorist elements and to respond to the request of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to hand them over. However, the United Kingdom authorities, in their reply contained in a note verbale dated 5 April 1998, resorted, as usual, to equivocations and omissions in order to avoid responding to the content of our note verbale, which was supported by clear facts and information.

Since the beginning of this month, the information media have been proclaiming the truth of the content of our note verbale, with the disclosure by The New York Times, dated 5 August 1998, and of The Guardian and other British and Arab newspapers concerning the statements of David Shayler, the former agent of the United Kingdom domestic security agency MI5, to the effect that MI6, the United Kingdom foreign intelligence service, had been involved in an attempt to assassinate the Leader of the Revolution and that a Libyan belonging to the so-

called Islamic Combat Group had carried out an assassination attempt in exchange for 100,000 pounds sterling.

David Shayler was arrested in Paris, at the request of the United Kingdom authorities, after he had announced his intention to publish information from France on the Internet revealing that the United Kingdom foreign intelligence service had been involved in the assassination attempt and that the United Kingdom authorities had intervened to prevent the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) from transmitting an edition of its programme "Panorama" on 5 August 1998 which would have revealed further details about the conspiracy. The fact that the programme was broadcast the next evening, on 6 August 1998, after a quarter of its content had been cut, indicates that the material omitted contained compelling evidence substantiating the story of the United Kingdom intelligence agent David Shayler and the official involvement of the United Kingdom Government in this act of terrorism.

The facts set out above and the approach which the United Kingdom authorities have adopted and continue to adopt in dealing with terrorists and terrorist organizations by giving them shelter, funding them, protecting them and sponsoring them, and enabling them openly to declare their seditious intentions, and the encouragement given to their subversive activities against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and its leadership, and the attempt by the United Kingdom authorities to silence anyone who speaks up about the involvement of the official services in these activities and conspiracies, are clearly demonstrated by the following:

1. The confirmation of the acts of State terrorism constantly being practised by the Government of the United Kingdom against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya;

2. The support of the United Kingdom for terrorist organizations, and the fact that it grants their members the right to reside in its territory, provides them with financial assistance and security, and supports them politically;

3. The confirmation that all the terrorist organizations operating under cover of the religion of Islam are creations of the United Kingdom and are at the service of its twofold objective of destabilizing the Islamic world, especially the Arab world, and simultaneously denigrating the religion of Islam;

4. The charge of terrorism against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya is a cover for the State terrorism practised by the United Kingdom and similar States against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and other Arab and Islamic States; the truth is that the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya is a victim of such terrorism.

On the basis of the foregoing, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya requests the United Kingdom Government as follows:

1. To hand over all those involved in these matters to the competent Libyan legal authorities for investigation;

2. To provide the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya with complete facts and information on all Libyans residing in the United Kingdom and carrying out acts against the security of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya;

3. To provide the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya with complete facts and information on all terrorist organizations, irrespective of the name under which they are operating, which are established in the United Kingdom and are using it as the base for their activities;

4. To give an undertaking that the United Kingdom will take practical and tangible measures to refrain from supporting, assisting, protecting, financing or sponsoring organizations or elements involved in terrorist activities;

5. To agree to compensate the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya for the losses and damage, whether material or moral, that have arisen, or may arise, from the subversive activities of such elements or groups;

6. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya also requests the Security Council to study this matter and to take whatever steps are necessary in that connection.

I should be very grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abuzed Omar DORDA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative